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FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5823
INFO RHEHNSC/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 6881
RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY 7461
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC 2582

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SUBJECT: WESTERN HEMISPHERE: VENEZUELA'S UNSC CANDIDACY; SAO PAULO

"Having Bush As Counterpoint Helps Chavez"

International commentator Newton Carlos opines in leading national circulation daily liberal Folha de S. Paulo (9/28): "Hugo Chavez wouldn't have any importance if he didn't have George W. Bush as counterpoint.... Washington's uncompromising hostility favored the emergence of an anti-Bush, a condition Chavez has assumed aggressively to the point of feeling himself free to engage in excesses, such as in his recent speech at the UN. The isolation of Chavez's, initiated by Condoleezza Rice, is currently trying to prevent Venezuela from obtaining a non-permanent seat in the Security Council.... Chavez also uses the fact that Venezuela is a victim of measures that are reminiscent of 'dirty wars,' such as its inclusion among nations that are watched by a special intelligence unit. Thomas Friedman wrote that Bush is the most unpopular U.S. president in history. It's the hook Chavez uses."
McMullen